(क) क्या वायुसेना के हिन्डन हवाई अड्डे से गत एक वर्ष से उड़ानें बंद कर दी गयी हैं, यदि हां तो, इसके क्या कारण है;

(ख) गत सात वर्षों में इस हवाई अड्डे पर कितने विमान नष्ट हुए और किन-किन कारणों से;

(ग) इस हवाई अड्डे के दस किलोमीटर की परिधि में कितने कसाईखाने, ईंट भट्टे एवं ऊंची चिमनियों वाली फैक्टरियां हैं; और

(घ) हिन्डन हवाई अड्डे को लड़ाकू विमानों की उड़ान के योग्य बनाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन०वी०एन० सोमू): (क) यद्यपि, हिंडन वायुसेना स्टेशन से परिवहन वायुयान तथा हेलिकाप्टर अभी भी उड़ान भरते हैं तथापि, पक्षियों के टकराने से दुर्घटनाएं होने के कारण लड़ाकू वायुयानों की उड़ान रोक दी गई है।

(ख) पिछले सात वर्षों के दौरान मुख्यतः मानव भूल, तकनीकी दोष तथा पक्षी टकराने के कारण पांच वायुयान नष्ट हुए हैं।

(ग) हिंडन हवाई अड्डे के आसपास 10 कि०मी० के क्षेत्र में कसाईखानों, ईंट भट्टों तथा ऊंची चिमनियों की सही-सही संख्या का अनुमान लगा पाना मुश्किल है। तथापि, किए गए हवाई सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार वहां लगभग 246 ईंट भट्टे और लगभग 100 फुट ऊंची चिमनियों वाले 73 उद्योग हैं।

(घ) कसाईघरों/पशु अवशेष उपयोग केंद्रों को आधुनिक बनाए जाने और पक्षियों के विचरण को कम करने के लिए पक्षियों के खतरे वाले हवाई अड्डों के आसपास के क्षेत्रों को साफ-सफाई करने के लिए कृषि तथा शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय तथा संबंधित राज्य सरकारों ने कार्रवाई की है।

Operation of domestic air service by foreign airlines from airports with naval and airforce bases

34. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that participation of foreign airlines in the operation of domestic air service from the airports like Bagdogra, Cochin, Goa, Visakhapatnam which are also naval and airforce bases is permissible; and

(b) if so, the justification in view, of the fact that the entry of foreign air crews would have access to vital and important technical information thereby creating a security hazard for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) No foreign airlines has been permitted to operate domestic air services from defence air fields. Only Indian operators having valid DGCA clearance have been permitted. Any service operated by a foreigner has to have prior security approval of the Ministry of Defence & Ministry of Home Affairs.

Drinking water and other basic amenities to defence personnels in Hazipur line, Delhi Cantt.

35. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the defence personnel of Indian Army, who are residing in Government accommodation in Hazipur line, Delhi Cantt. are facing acute shortage of drinking water and the said maintenance work is under the MES;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Block No. 26 of the said colony, is in dilapidated condition and the number of complaints pending with the MES authorities but could not be rectified; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any action to provide drinking water to the residents and other basic amenities to the defence personnel and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a), (b) & (d) The

defence personnel staying in Hazipur line are provided potable water supplied by the MES through tubewell as no MCD water supply exists.

(c) As per information available Block No. 26 of Hazipur line is a permanent RCC construction and is not very old. Five complaints which were received by MES complaint-cell during the last 3 months pertain in sewage blockages which were promptly attended to.

Procurement of radar tubes by IAF

36. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF (RCPO) procured three radar tubes at a cost of Rs. 95.31 lakhs inspite of the fact that 23 such tubes were already in stock and the consumption record did not warrant any additional purchase at this stage; and

(b) if so, the reason for this infructuous expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The IAF purchased three Cross Field Amplifier tubes for radars from the defence PSU, viz. BEL based on the in-service life as per the Warranty terms of the manufacturer.

(b) There is no infructuous expenditure as the current stock is expected to be exhausted within the next about 2-3 years at current consumption rate with increased hours of radar usage.

IAF aircraft lost in crashes, shot-down and grounding

37. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of IAF aircrafts lost in (i) crashes, (ii) shot-down, and (iii) grounding during 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far;

(b) the comparative figures for 1995-96 and 1994-95; and

(c) the steps taken to augment the fleet during the period indicating the cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The number of aircraft lost in crashes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 (till date) are 20 and 06 respectively as compared to 25 and 28 respectively during 1994-95 and 1995-96. These mainly involve fighter and trainer aircraft. However, there has been no incident of any aircraft being shot-down or grounded during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(c) It would not be in our security interest to indicate the number of aircraft inducted and the cost involved therein.

Delay in important defence projects

38. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important projects like Main Battle Tank, (Arjun), Light Combat Aircraft, Project Sea Bird, Advance Light Helicopter, New MM Indian Small Arms System and Pilotless Target Aircraft are stymied by inordinate delay;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the original targeted period and period of delay and the present position of the projects; and

(c) the original and the escalated costs of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Defence projects like, Main Battle Tank (Arjun),